



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

comparatively friendless orphan, who courageously encounters the evils of adverse fortune, and triumphs over the difficulties by which he is surrounded, needs little rhetorical skill on the part of the writer to insure for it a large popularity. But the author of the memoir before us possesses few of the higher qualities of a biographer; and his *Life of his father* affords only one more proof that filial affection is not the most important requisite for the performance of such a task. The work contains, indeed, much material which might have been wrought into a very attractive narrative; but it is spread over a dreary waste of trivial details and commonplace remarks. In a word, Mr. Shee's memoir may be characterized as tedious and prolix, while his estimate of his father's abilities is much too high, and his tone is often that of a strong partisan. Instead of bringing out in sharp and clear outline the manly traits which render Sir Martin's example full of instruction, it leaves on the mind of the reader only a vague impression of them. An adequate account of his life and character still remains to be written.

- 5.—*The Jacobite Songs and Ballads of Scotland, from 1688 to 1746. With an Appendix of Modern Jacobite Songs.* Edited by CHARLES MACKAY, LL. D. London and Glasgow: Richard Griffin & Co. 1861. 16mo. pp. 348.

NOWHERE is there a more striking instance of wrong-headed loyalty than is afforded by the history of the Scotch Jacobites; and nowhere has this sentiment found a richer or more various poetical expression than in the songs and ballads through which they testified their devotion to the exiled Stuarts. These songs form, indeed, the most attractive part of the minstrelsy of Scotland, and every addition to their number is an acceptable contribution to poetical literature. Mr. Mackay has therefore rendered a real service to a large class of readers by the preparation of the little volume before us, though we wish he had done his work better. His volume comprises nearly a hundred and fifty songs, most of which were composed in the first half of the eighteenth century, beside an Appendix of more than twenty-five songs of the same character, but of a more recent date. In his collection are included all or nearly all of the specimens given by previous writers on the subject, and some which are not contained, we believe, in any similar work. Many of them are curious, and nearly all are interesting. Mr. Mackay is certainly entitled to the praise of diligence in bringing together so large a body of Jacobite poetry; but in other respects his editorial duties have been discharged in a very perfunctory

manner. His Introduction has little historical and no critical value; his notes are meagre and unsatisfactory; in many instances he has neglected to state the source from which he has taken his songs; and he has not furnished a Glossary, without which many of them are unintelligible. He has not given any statement of the comparative dates of different songs; nor has he printed the different readings of the same song. These defects greatly diminish the worth of his volume as a contribution to political and literary history, and leave the field still open for some more faithful editor.

6.—*Brief Biographies.* By SAMUEL SMILES, Author of "Self-Help," and "Life of George Stephenson." With Steel Portraits. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 16mo. pp. 517.

THIS volume comprises a collection of thirty-five biographical sketches, reprinted for the most part from English periodicals, and now brought together at the suggestion of the American publishers. They are in general mere portraits in outline, without any attempt at an elaborate delineation of character, and with few biographical details. But they exhibit a considerable degree of acquaintance with the topics discussed, and are characterized by the same qualities which mark Mr. Smiles's previous and more elaborate works. Among the subjects of the sketches are poets and inventors, scholars and statesmen, writers of fiction and historians, critics and men of science; and this wide range of subjects indicates at once the catholicity of the writer's taste, and the cause of his occasional failures to give a clear view of the lives and characters described. Few persons could treat such diverse topics with equal success as to all of them; and in the case of Mr. Smiles this difficulty is enhanced by the extreme brevity to which he has sometimes restricted himself. Thus many of his sketches do not extend beyond nine or ten pages, and the longest and best of them, the memoir of James Watt, covers but little more than fifty pages. With this qualification the volume is interesting and instructive. Its style, however, is sometimes careless and inelegant, indicating haste in the preparation of many of the papers, and on the whole it gives a much less favorable idea of Mr. Smiles's powers than we derive from his other works.